

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 22, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 579 HD2](#) - RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Hearing: February 24, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure and defers to the Department of the Attorney General (ATG).

PURPOSE: The bill establishes the statewide human trafficking prevention program overseen by the Department of the Attorney General to provide services and assistance to commercially sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking. Requires reports to the legislature. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD2)

The Committee on Human Services amended the measure by:

- (1) Amending the preamble;
- (2) Expanding the statewide strategies required to be developed under the Human Trafficking Prevention Program to include accountability for child enticement, commercial sexual exploitation, pimping, and human trafficking;
- (3) Including additional reporting requirements in the Department of the Attorney General's reports to the Legislature related to reports made to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Child Tip hotline; arrests, including arrests of active duty military or National Guard personnel; recovery of previously recovered children; and number of adult sex trafficking victims;
- (4) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and

- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs made additional technical amendments.

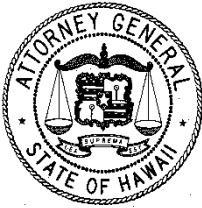
DHS appreciates the Legislature's attention to support the statewide human trafficking prevention program led by the Department of the Attorney General to coordinate the system's response. However, more resources are needed to prevent and respond to the long-term needs of human trafficking survivors.

Act 16, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017 (Act 16), amended the definition of "child abuse or neglect" to ensure that mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect report to the Department of Human Services known or suspected child victims of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking in person. Act 16 brought Hawaii's child abuse statute into compliance with the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-22).

Since then, DHS Child Welfare Services has continued to collaborate and work with the Judiciary, ATG, state and federal law enforcement, stakeholders, and providers to strengthen Hawaii's response to the trafficking of minors. Some of the lessons learned are:

- Collaboration with other entities is necessary to help locate a victim, as there is often not enough information provided at intake to locate a victim;
- Developing a coordinated response and an information-sharing process is necessary to prevent duplication of efforts by members of the Multi-disciplinary Team;
- Service delivery is difficult for victims that frequently run from a placement, making it challenging to provide services;
- The coordinated response and information sharing improved the timeliness of reporting to CWS and Susannah Wesley Community Center, especially after-hours;
- Coordination and relationship-building supported successful sting operations; and
- Youth need more placement options, substance abuse, mental health services, ways to keep youth safely connected to their families or Hānai families, and more training for community and family members.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 579, H.D. 2, RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Friday, February 24, 2023

TIME: 11:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
David Van Acker, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports the intent of the bill and offers the following comments.

The Department is eager to continue its efforts to combat human trafficking. In 2022, the Department created the Special Investigation and Prosecution Division (SIPD), which contains the Human Trafficking Abatement Section. Currently, the Human Trafficking Abatement Section is participating in several investigative and prosecutorial efforts in partnership with law enforcement agencies across the State.

This bill provides a robust and comprehensive framework for the Department to make efforts to prevent human trafficking, provide increased support and assistance to victims, educate the public, prosecute offenders, and collect data. The bill also requires other state and county departments to cooperate with the Department's efforts. We believe that this type of bill will catapult Hawaii's efforts to fight human trafficking forward.

The Department is ready to proactively assist the Legislature in achieving the intent of the bill, especially in the areas where our expertise lies. For example, we will be able to review the criminal statutes related to prostitution and sex trafficking in chapter 712, Hawaii Revised Statutes, assess barriers that inhibit law enforcement agencies, service providers, and government agencies from supporting victims and

holding offenders accountable, and make recommendations for enhancing and collecting some of the data regarding trafficking.

As a newly established division, SIPD's main priority has been to establish consistent relationships with law enforcement agencies, governmental departments, and community service providers. Those relationships will enable SIPD to protect and support victims and prosecute offenders. Once SIPD's law enforcement and community-based support collaborations are well established, the reporting requirements detailed within the bill will be much more productive and helpful to the Legislature. The Department is eager to work with the Legislature to figure out the most effective and efficient use of the state resources to combat human trafficking.

The Department respectfully submits these comments for consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke
Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine

Testimony on behalf of the
Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women

Support for HB579 HD2

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Honorable Members:

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women **supports the intent of H.B. 579 HD2**, and requests an amendment.

The Commission on the Status of Women is a member of the O‘ahu Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Steering Committee and serves as co-chair of the Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Taskforce in partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. While technically it is true that “anyone can be trafficked,” the Taskforce’s year-long investigation found that the majority (43%) of sex trafficking cases in Hawai‘i are Native Hawaiian girls trafficked in Waikīkī, O‘ahu.¹ This bill is squarely a Native Hawaiian issue and gender equality issue.

Requested Amendment

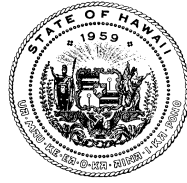
The Commission on the Status of Women asks that the Committee please amend this draft to incorporate the underlined language:

(vii) The total number of arrests of active duty military ~~and~~ National Guard and Military Reserves, civilian employees of the Department of Defense, and Department of Defense contractors made through the department of the attorney general’s internet crimes against children task force or other proactive investigations that involve Hawaii law enforcement agencies;

The Commission cannot fight the sex trafficking or MMIWG crises with a blindfold over our eyes. We need data collection and data sharing to enable stakeholders beyond law enforcement to do our jobs to protect vulnerable women and children.

Mahalo,
Khara Jabola-Carolus

¹ Cristobal, N. (2022). Holoī ā nalo Wāhine ‘Ōiwi: Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Task Force Report (Part 1). Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women: Honolulu, HI.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 579 HD2
RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 24, 2023

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A

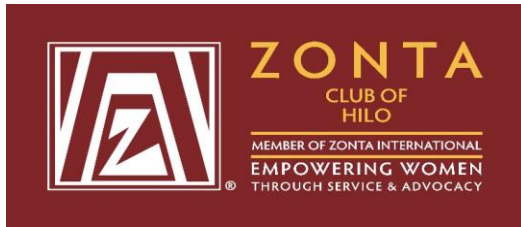
2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of HB894
3 "Human Trafficking."

4 The subject matter of this measure falls partially within the scope of the Department's
5 Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) whose statutory mandate is to assure a comprehensive
6 statewide behavioral health care system by leveraging and coordinating public, private and
7 community resources. The BHA's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD)
8 provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

9 While the State of Hawaii has multiple efforts to respond to Commercially Sexually Exploited
10 Children (CSEC) such as the a) CSEC steering with multiple state and law enforcement
11 agencies; b) five multi-disciplinary teams specifically trained to address trafficked youth across
12 the state, as well as c) therapeutic programming, the state would benefit from a more coordinated
13 and comprehensive program. Such a program could develop policies, interagency collaboration,
14 training, dissemination of information, expand the scope of the program to adults and stay
15 abreast with local, other state's activities as well as Federal efforts.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

17 **Offered Amendments:** N/A



Rep. Yamashita, Chair, Rep. Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and Committee Members

From: Zonta Club of Hilo, Charlene Iboshi, Advocacy Committee

Testimony In Support of HB 579, HD 2, HSCR534, Relating To Human Trafficking

The Zonta Clubs across Hawai`i, nationally and Internationally, support prevention and prosecution of Human Trafficking. In Hawai`i, minor sex trafficking has been identified as a crime that is preventable. Prevention and awareness campaigns are key to addressing minor sex trafficking, along with training of those that work with youth, and specialized investigation and prosecution units. January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, so it is appropriate for the Legislature to recognize the importance of prevention and prosecution, as proposed by HB 579.

I was on the Hawai`i Human Anti-Trafficking Task Force prior to the enactment of Human Trafficking Laws. The State of Hawai`i has moved forward by adopting human trafficking laws, funded prevention efforts, and funded a special prosecution unit in the Attorney General's Office. Hawai`i has responded appropriately, but more needs to be done.

Prevention and awareness are critical to reducing the costs and trauma of the youth who are exploited, many times by their own families, friends and boyfriends. Research done by the Arizona State University from 2018 through 2022, and provided to the Legislature, supports the funding for prevention of Human Trafficking, Investigation and Prosecution. Reporting of these crimes are critical for guidance on refinement of the efforts to prevent and prosecute Human Trafficking offenders. Notably, as in sexual assault, child abuse and domestic violence cases, many times the offender is known to the victim. Disclosure is difficult and recantation expected. Rigid guidelines, may prevent capture of the needed data, including "suspected" trafficking.

Any experienced investigator will know that disclosure may arise during a "simple" runaway or truancy report. Hospital personnel may "suspect" trafficking, but may not have adequate resources to follow-up. Funding for prevention, statewide strategies, including multi-disciplinary training, are key to appropriate follow-up for investigation and successful prosecution. More importantly, prevention, even if it is "secondary prevention," may halt the harm done to the youth and the community, including the offenders who exploit the youth and their connections that experience the "generational trauma" of violence.

Importantly, reducing the demand side of the minor human trafficking is critical to eliminating minor human trafficking. "If there were no buyers, there would be no business for the pimps and traffickers and no victims of human Trafficking." Sex Trafficking in Hawai`i. Part 1, Sept., 2018, Sex Trafficking in Hawai`i.

Additionally, the most common reasons identified by sex trafficking victims for their victimization were drugs (26.8%), money (24.7%), and a place to stay (24.7%). Most sex trafficked victims were female (75%). Relationship to the trafficker were noted as family (25.8%), friend (24.7%), and boyfriend (24.7%), and explains why this is a crime that hides in the shadows.

In conclusion, the Zonta Club of Hilo and the Zonta International network, supports prevention and prosecution of human trafficking, and reporting of appropriate data. We know deployment of resources and reporting take time, but ask for passage of HB 579.

Mahalo for considering HB 579 and the support testimony of the Zonta Club of Hilo, as part of the Zonta International Network.



Democratic Party of Hawai'i Supports H.B. No. 579, HD2

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports H.B. No. 579, HD2, to establish a statewide human trafficking prevention program to provide services and assistance to exploited children and the victims of human trafficking.

The platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i speaks to public safety, as follows:

We believe members of the public have an inherent right to be safe in their homes, workplaces and communities. We believe that Hawai'i's communities should be well-prepared for the challenges of today and of the future.

We broadly support measures that are designed to promote public safety as a cornerstone of legislative policy.

Mahalo.

Dennis W. Jung
State Party Chair
Democratic Party of Hawai'i



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 579 HD2: RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

TO: House Committee on Finance
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Friday, 2/24/2023; 11:30 AM; via videoconference**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in Strong Support** of **HB 579 HD2**, which establishes a state-wide human trafficking prevention program overseen by the Department of the Attorney General to address commercially sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking. I am Rob Van Tassell, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, people experiencing homelessness, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. CCH has experience providing therapeutic services to individuals with complex trauma including victims of sex trafficking. In our experience working with youth, many are unaware of their own vulnerability to being exploited and becoming a victim of sex trafficking.

This is a priority bill for Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We must take action to prevent Hawaii's children from being exploited and becoming victims of human trafficking. This strikes at the very heart of our Ohana—our children. Studies have reported that the average age of children when they were first sex trafficked was just 11 years old. 3 out of 4 victims knew their trafficker, who was a family member, friend or significant other. Shockingly, 48,000 + ads were posted for commercial sex in Hawai'i in 2019. This commercial sex with children under 18 years of age is induced by force, fraud, or coercion. These children may not know who to turn to and lack the ability to escape.

Hawai'i needs a strategy to prevent this inhumane crime of human trafficking. Hawai'i needs a plan to provide more support to these victims. Public education is critical for adults and children to become more aware of sexual exploitation of children, as well as available help (services, hotlines, websites with information, etc.) This is a crime which is often hidden. It targets highly vulnerable groups like runaways, foster children, youth with mental illnesses and substance abuse issues, etc. who are highly vulnerable to the emotional manipulation and lures of the trafficker. A comprehensive response is needed to confront this issue and develop training on the best practices to prevent, identify and address this issue of grave danger to kids.

This bill provides the comprehensive approach that is essential to address this hidden issue and help the children sucked into sex trafficking. We urge your support.

Please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 373-0356 or bettylou.larson@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



HB-579-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 11:27:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill .

HB-579-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:13:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Hawai‘i’s keiki are vulnerable to sex-trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Foster children and runaways having histories of abuse and neglect are at particularly high risk. Other highly vulnerable groups include LGBTQ+ youth, immigrants, undocumented workers, and youth suffering from mental illnesses and substance abuse issues. Victims are often lured into sex-trafficking through traffickers’ use of emotional manipulation and control, force, fraud, or threats.

In the last decade, the commercial sexual exploitation of children has garnered greater attention in Hawai‘i and throughout the United States. The department of human services has received an increasing number of hotline calls involving witnesses or victims of child sex-trafficking. However, because child sex-trafficking is covert, it is difficult to accurately measure the scope of the problem, and exploited youth do not always identify themselves as victims.

According to Community Against Exploitation Hawai‘i, the only local organization led by and for sex-trafficking survivors in Hawai‘i, children receive the majority of resources and services related to programming, placement, and exit and recovery from sex trafficking. Additionally, once recovered, minors are often afforded opportunities and supported financially by the state. And that’s all great. However, national and Hawai‘i specific research shows that it is extremely hard for adult sex-trafficking survivors to start over financially and mentally due, in part, to the severe lack of resources for them in the islands.

To adequately assist all persons who have been sexually exploited, a statewide human-trafficking program is needed to develop and utilize comprehensive interagency case management strategies and protocols, combined with a multi-disciplinary response.

Please support HB579 HD2.

Mahalo, Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

HB-579-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:20:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai‘i’s keiki are vulnerable to sex-trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Foster children and runaways having histories of abuse and neglect are at particularly high risk. Other highly vulnerable groups include LGBTQ+ youth, immigrants, undocumented workers, and youth suffering from mental illnesses and substance abuse issues. Victims are often lured into sex-trafficking through traffickers’ use of emotional manipulation and control, force, fraud, or threats.

In the last decade, the commercial sexual exploitation of children has garnered greater attention in Hawai‘i and throughout the United States. The department of human services has received an increasing number of hotline calls involving witnesses or victims of child sex-trafficking. However, because child sex-trafficking is covert, it is difficult to accurately measure the scope of the problem, and exploited youth do not always identify themselves as victims.

According to Community Against Exploitation Hawai‘i, the only local organization led by and for sex-trafficking survivors in Hawai‘i, children receive the majority of resources and services related to programming, placement, and exit and recovery from sex trafficking. Additionally, once recovered, minors are often afforded opportunities and supported financially by the state. However, national and Hawai‘i specific research shows that it is extremely hard for adult sex-trafficking survivors to start over financially and mentally due, in part, to the severe lack of resources for them in the islands.

To adequately assist all persons who have been sexually exploited, a statewide human-trafficking program is needed to develop and utilize comprehensive interagency case management strategies and protocols, combined with a multi-disciplinary response. Please support HB579 HD2.

HB-579-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:39:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My opposition to HB 579 is as follows

- **Calls to human trafficking hotlines are not the same as actual cases of human trafficking. It does not make sense to use calls to a hotline to measure human trafficking.**
- **Human trafficking hotlines do not provide any services to victims of trafficking.**
- **Hotlines have no mechanisms to remove people from their counts if they return home.**
- **Hotlines do not control for the same person being counted multiple times. A person who repeatedly runs away can be counted every time they run away.**
- **Public awareness campaigns increase calls to trafficking hotlines. Oftentimes behavior that is not trafficking gets called and reported like parents of mixed race children simply being out in public with their children.**

The New Zealand Model would be the best way to address concerns regarding sex work. Under the New Zealand model sexual exploitation of minors is still a crime. Sex workers and clients are able to safely report anything suspicious because they are no longer in fear of facing criminal consequences when reporting. Provider and client decriminalization is key criminalization models that target clients further drive sex work under ground, increase harassment of sex workers, and increases violence against sex workers.

HB-579-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 10:41:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Davidson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB579

My opposition to HB579 stems from its over ambition, displayed and betrayed by a base-level understanding of multi-layered, overlapping issues; all buttressed by a faulty foundation.

Section 1 opens with a sensationalistic declaration about sexual harms to children. Then a stigmatizing roll call of various populations implied to be targeted for “sex trafficking”, still exhibiting an unnerving preoccupation with such abuses directed at children.

The second paragraph continues in the same disturbing vein, tempered with foreshadowing of questionable reliance on “hotline” reports; meanwhile hinting at a possible flexibility on the interpretation of data, due to circumstances that make it “difficult to accurately measure the scope of the problem”.

Paragraph 3 was the most jarring. Citing and subtly hyping an unfamiliar, unvetted “organization”, whose slogan is the specious competitive claim to exclusivity of being “by and for sex trafficking survivors in Hawaii”. It felt like branded, preferential product placement, cut and pasted from a fundraising proposition. Their only searchable web presence being some sketchy hack website didn’t assuage my assumptions.

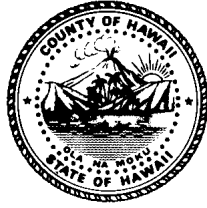
The rest of the bill awkwardly attempts to address the narrower issue of “commercial sexual exploitation of children and the broader issue of human trafficking.” However, those topics being the reductive refrain throughout, call into question the writers’ understanding of the roots and reach of these societal scourges. Unverifiable calls to a “CyberTipline”, and repeated references to persons “suspected to be victims”, aren’t satisfying answers.

While most headline grabbing “sex trafficking” arrests are of consenting adults participating in sex work, why are worker-centered policies regarding the sex industry never suggested? Nor sex worker involvement in data collection and policy writing? The New Zealand model of full sex work decriminalization has proven successful in the fight against trafficking. Why not spread the word?

Labor exploitation in farming, domestic help, and the garment industry are very well-documented, but these industries are not invoked.

As with much legislation focusing on trafficking, this one brings up “LGBTQ+ youth, immigrants, undocumented workers, and youth suffering from mental illnesses and substance abuse issues”. However, also common with trafficking laws, representatives from the above “vulnerable groups” rarely have input or influence. From reading this bill, I would doubt members of these populations would want such heavy government and police oversight of their lives.

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 23, 2023
TO: House Committee on Finance
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HB 579

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in strong support of HB 579. This bill establishes a statewide human trafficking prevention program to be overseen by the department of the attorney general to provide services and assistance to commercially sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking.

Recent data from a report on this topic (https://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/MMNHWG-Report_Web.pdf) indicates that Native Hawaiian women and girls are disproportionately facing higher rates of sex exploitation and trafficking. Hawai'i Island in particular is facing larger numbers of cases of children ages 15-17 going missing than elsewhere in the State and the majority are from my zip code of Hilo, 96720. From 2018-2021 there were 182 cases of missing Native Hawaiian girls on Hawai'i Island, which is higher than any other racial group. No one should face sexual exploitation or sexual trafficking, but more needs to be done at once by direct work and support between the Attorney General's office and Native Hawaiian and Women's Advocacy groups to address the concerning rates of this crisis effecting Native Hawaiian girls.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Kagiwada'.

Jenn Kagiwada

HB-579-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 3:42:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen L Worthington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB579 HD2, RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Dear Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and Committee members,

I am writing to ask you to support H.B. 579, HD2, which proposes to establish the statewide Human Trafficking Prevention Program (HTP) overseen by the Department of the Attorney General to provide services and assistance to commercially sexually exploited children and victims of human trafficking and requires reports to the legislature.

Best regards,

Karen Worthington, 66 Puakea Place, Kula HI 96790

HB-579-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 10:10:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry SUPPORT HB 579 RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Chair of the House and Committee

Bill HB579 HD2, Human Trafficking Prevention Program

Friday, February 24, 2023

11:30am in House conference room 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Attorney General and House Committee,

I, Traci Moniz-Serrao, am a constituent of District 4 in Hawaii County I am testifying in support of Bill HB579 HD2, relating to the Human Trafficking Prevention Program. I am committed to assisting with education and advocacy throughout my community and our state on the prevention of Human Trafficking. I work in a health care system where we see individuals that have been victimized and/or have witnessed commercial sexual exploitation. The effects of sex traffick survivors are prevalent in all aspects of their daily lives and make it extremely hard for survivors to gain stability with moving forward mentally and financially within our state. I have worked with individuals that were looking for community support and resources to gain stability in their daily lives and have encountered barriers with limited resources. The resources that would be able to address the needs of victims of Human Trafficking, prevention of Human trafficking, and the State's anti-trafficking response and implementation of strategies to address accountability for the exploitation of individuals are very limited and are in need to educate people of our communities.

In closing, I, Traci Moniz-Serrao, a constituent of District 4 in Hawaii County humbly ask the House Committee to pass HB579 and look forward to the opportunity to assist with the education, advocacy, and prevention of sex trafficking and exploitation here in Hawai'i.

Thank you,

Traci Moniz-Serrao

15-2690 Manalo St.

Pahoa, HI. 96778

